

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A header assembly for connecting an implantable medical device to a conductor lead terminating at a body organ intended to be assisted by the medical device comprising a housing containing control circuitry, at least one electrical energy storage device, and at least one feedthrough wire extending from the control circuitry and through a wall of the housing, the header assembly comprising:

- a) a body mounted on the housing for the medical device, wherein the body has a sidewall extending to a bottom wall disposed immediately adjacent to the medical device housing and wherein a connection inlet is provided in the body sidewall in communication with the bottom wall;
- b) at least one terminal supported by the ~~polymeric~~ body, wherein the terminal is directly connectable to the conductor lead; and
- c) ~~a unitary~~ an intermediate conductor supported by the body, the intermediate conductor having a distal end connected to the terminal and a proximal end residing in the connection inlet in the body and there being directly connected to the feedthrough wire; and [.]
- d) a polymeric back fill filling in the connection inlet and preventing body fluids from coming into contact with the connection between the intermediate conductor and the feedthrough wire.

2. (Currently Amended) The header assembly of claim 1 wherein the proximal end of the intermediate conductor ~~wire~~ comprises a step that is securable to the feedthrough wire in a lap joint construction.

3. (Currently Amended) The header assembly of claim 1 wherein the proximal end of the intermediate conductor ~~wire~~ comprises an enlarged head having a bore into which the feedthrough wire is receivable and connectable.

4. (Currently Amended) The header assembly of claim 3 wherein the enlarged head comprises [a] the bore and a groove in communication with the bore, and wherein a spring is nested in the groove so that when the feedthrough wire is received in the bore, the spring contacts the feedthrough wire.

5. (Currently Amended) The header assembly of claim 4 wherein the groove is an annular groove ~~supporting an annular~~ and the spring is an annular member supported in the groove to surround that surrounds the feedthrough wire.

6. (Original) The header assembly of claim 4 wherein the spring is a leaf spring.

7. (Original) The header assembly of claim 1 wherein the body is of a polymeric material.

8. (Original) The header assembly of claim 1 wherein the body includes a first inlet that receives a bracket secured to the housing and a second inlet and wherein with the bracket received in the first inlet, a wedge is receivable in the second inlet and a bracket inlet to secure the header assembly to the medical device.

9. (Original) The header assembly of claim 8 wherein the bracket is either L-shaped or U-shaped.

10. (Original) The header assembly of claim 1 wherein the housing for the medical device comprises mating first and second clam shells.

11. (Original) The header assembly of claim 1 wherein the medical device is selected from the group consisting of a hearing assist device, neurostimulator, cardiac pacemaker, drug pump and cardiac defibrillator.

12. (Currently Amended) A header assembly for connecting an implantable medical device to a conductor lead terminating at a body organ intended to be assisted by the medical device comprising a housing containing control circuitry, at least one electrical energy storage device, and at least one feedthrough wire extending from the control circuitry and through a wall of the housing, the header assembly comprising:

- a) a body mounted on the housing for the medical device;
- b) at least one terminal supported by the polymeric body, wherein the terminal is directly connectable to the conductor lead; and
- c) an intermediate conductor supported by the body, the intermediate conductor having a distal end connected to the terminal and a proximal end ~~directly connected to the feedthrough wire~~ comprising an enlarged head having a bore into which the distal end of the feedthrough wire is receivable and connectable.

13. (Currently Amended) The header assembly of claim 12 wherein the proximal end of the intermediate conductor comprising the ~~wire connects to an enlarged head comprising a~~ having the bore and a groove in communication with the bore, and wherein a spring is nested in the groove so that when the feedthrough wire is received in the bore, the spring contacts the feedthrough wire.

14. (Currently Amended) The header assembly of claim ~~12~~ 13 wherein the groove is an annular groove ~~supporting an annular~~ and the spring is an annular member supported in the groove to surround that surrounds the feedthrough wire.

15. (Currently Amended) The header assembly of claim ~~12~~ 13 wherein the spring is a leaf spring.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for connecting an implantable medical device to a conductor terminating at a body organ intended to be assisted by the medical device, comprising the steps of:

- a) providing the medical device having a housing containing control circuitry, at least one electrical energy storage device and at least one feedthrough wire extending from the control circuitry through a wall of the housing to a distal end located outside the housing;
- b) providing a body having a sidewall extending to a bottom wall and wherein a connection inlet is provided in the body sidewall in communication with the bottom wall, the body supporting at least one terminal and at least one unitary intermediate conductor, wherein the intermediate conductor has a distal end connected to the terminal and a proximal end;
- c) mounting the body on the medical device with the proximal distal end of the feedthrough wire residing in the connection inlet in the body and disposed in an overlapping a connectable relationship with at least a portion of the proximal end of the intermediate conductor; and

- d) ~~securing~~ connecting the ~~proximal~~ distal end of the feedthrough wire to the proximal end of the intermediate conductor[.] ; and
- e) back filling a polymeric material in the connection inlet to prevent body fluids from coming into contact with the connection between the intermediate conductor and the feedthrough wire.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 ~~wherein~~ including providing the proximal end of the intermediate conductor ~~wire comprises comprising~~ a step and including ~~the step of~~ securing the feedthrough wire to the intermediate conductor wire in a lap joint construction.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 ~~wherein~~ including providing the proximal end of the intermediate conductor ~~wire comprises comprising~~ an enlarged head having a bore ~~into which and receiving the distal end of the feedthrough wire in the bore~~ and there connecting the feedthrough wire to the intermediate conductor ~~is receivable and connectable~~.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 ~~wherein~~ including providing the bore in the enlarged head comprises a groove supporting a spring, and including the step of mounting the header assembly on the medical device with the distal end of the feedthrough wire received in the bore and the spring contacting the feedthrough wire.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19 ~~wherein~~ including providing the groove ~~is as~~ an annular groove ~~supporting an annular~~ and the spring as an annular member supported in the groove surrounding the feedthrough wire.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19 wherein including providing the spring is as a leaf spring.

22. (Original) The method of claim 16 including providing the body of a polymeric material.

23. (Original) The method of claim 16 including providing the body comprising a first inlet that receives a bracket secured to the housing and a second inlet and including the step of mounting the header assembly on the medical device with the bracket received in the first inlet and moving a wedge into the second inlet and a bracket inlet thereby securing the header assembly to the medical device.

24. (New) The header assembly of claim 1 wherein the intermediate conductor is a unitary member.

25. (New) A header assembly for connecting an implantable medical device to a conductor lead terminating at a body organ intended to be assisted by the medical device comprising a housing containing control circuitry, at least one electrical energy storage device, and at least one feedthrough wire extending from the control circuitry and through a wall of the housing, the header assembly comprising:

- a) a body mounted on the housing for a medical device;
- b) at least one terminal supported by the polymeric body, wherein the terminal is directly connectable to the conductor lead; and
- c) an intermediate conductor supported by the body, the intermediate conductor having a distal end connected to the terminal and a proximal end comprising a step that is securable to the feedthrough wire in a lap joint construction.

26. (New) A header assembly for connecting an implantable medical device to a conductor lead terminating at a body organ intended to be assisted by the medical device comprising a housing containing control circuitry, at least one electrical energy storage device, and at least one feedthrough wire extending from the control circuitry and through a wall of the housing, the header assembly comprising:

- a) a body mounted on the housing for a medical device;
- b) at least one terminal supported by the polymeric body, wherein the terminal is directly connectable to the conductor lead;
- c) an intermediate conductor supported by the body, the intermediate conductor having a distal end connected to the terminal and a proximal end directly connected to the feedthrough wire; and
- d) wherein the body includes a first inlet that receives a bracket secured to the housing and a second inlet and wherein with the bracket received in the first inlet, a wedge is receivable in the second inlet and a bracket inlet to secure the header assembly to the medical device.

27. (New) The header assembly of claim 26 wherein the bracket is either L-shaped or U-shaped.